

\$2.00 the birth certificates went down 4,704." So you can see it's almost half, in fact it is half. Most of the people that are applying for birth certificates are those parents for their children to enter school and that was about 15 percent and for Social Security for the senior citizens about 18 percent. The rest is for welfare, marriage license, drivers' license, employment, veterans administration and some there for retirement. In 1980 the group that least afford was 47 percent of all copies for which a reason was given and 40.9 percent in 1984. Most that were the reasons given for asking for a birth certificate were entering the military service, on sports, insurance, personal business or the lost record. In 12 years experience of Mr. Kenneth Goc who is the supervisor of Douglas County Health Department for Vital Statistics, in 12 years that J and K, which is the veterans and other, is about people that are reluctant to admit that they were in the need of welfare. In 1980 in Douglas County 19,500 copies were issued. In 1984 20,089. The number of copies issued has risen steadily since at least 1970, averaging 6 percent increase. He also says, \$3.00 is an unreasonable amount and would come after only two years since the last increase. When Michigan increased fees from \$3.00 to \$10.00 the requests fell 50 percent. When California increased fees from \$4.00 to \$8.00 requests fell 39 percent. Over one-fourth, 5,324 of our copies issued in 1984 were for newborn children. Of that amount 27.6 of the copies were multiple issues of the same certificate purchased at the same time. The most interesting statistics he gave is in a paragraph and I quote, "According to the 1980 U.S. Census the population of Nebraska was 1,569,825. Of those only 1,101,000 are native Nebraskans. 30 percent of the total population would never pay a cent toward child abuse funds through the birth certificate surcharge. In addition many thousands of people who were born here but do not reside in Nebraska would be financing this program." Most of the requests for birth certificates come, as I say, by the elderly, the newborn infants and those children that are entering school. In most instances where proof of age or citizenship is needed, they are going to turn to baptismal certificates or school records or voter registration rather than get a birth certificate because of the cost.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: This high fee would be penalizing people